(c) Tht Chinese response has been that the area in question is on their side of the McMahon Line. Government have categorically rejcted the Chinese claim and stressed that the area is well within Indian territory as it is clearly South of the McMahon Line which constitutes the International boundary in this sector.

Statement of the President of Pakistan regarding funds received by the People's Party of Pakistan

1313. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI YALLA SESI
BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what is Government's reaction to the allegation made by the President of Pakistan that the People's Party of Pakistan and its Presisident Miss Benazir Bhuto were received funds from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Government have categorically rejected these baseless and unfounded allegations.

Statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan regarding Kashmir

1314 SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has stated again in the Pakistan National Assembly on the 3rd June, 1986 that the "dispute" between India and Pakistan over Kashmir would be taken up with the Indian Government at an appropriate time; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's position on Jammu and Kashmir is clear and has been stated on different occasions. The whole of the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Deal for transfer of technology from US to India

1315. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the details of the deal undertaken relating to high-technology transfer by the United States to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): In November, 1984, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Technology Transfer was concluded between the Governments of India and the USA. In May, 1985, the implementation procedures of the MOU were finalised. The objective of the MOU is to promote trade and collaboration in advanced technology between India and the United States.

1316. [*Transferred to the 7th August, 1986*].

Decline in the tourist inflow into Himachal Pradesh

1317 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist inflow into Himachal Pradesh has been adversely affected due to the prevailing situation in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There has been a decline in foreign tourist arrivals during second half of 1984 and during the first half of 1985 due to the adverse media coverage of various events in the country including Punjab problem. The exact impact of this in the inflow of tourist to Himachal Pradesh can not be assessed due to non-availability of reliable statistics. However, the situation has now changed and the foreign tourist arrivals registered an increase of 14.6 per cent during the first half of 1986.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to counteract the adverse media coverage and to promote tourism in the country include reassurance campaigns in overseas markets, consumer advertising, holding of travel marts etc: In the case of Himachal Pradesh, publicity material covering various places of tourist interest in that State have also been brought out.

1318. [*Transferred to the 7th August*, 1986].

Issue of Passports

1319. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by the different Regional Passport Offices during the period from January, 1985 to June, 1986;

(b) the number of applications received and the number of passports issued during that last six months and the time taken in the issue of passports; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the speedy disposal of the passport applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) 17,49,701 passports were issued by the different Passport Offices during the period from January, 1985 to June, 1986.

(b) 6,23,795 applications for passport were received by different Passport Offices during last six months and 6,59,832 passports were issued by them during the same period. Generally passports are issued within a period of 7 days after receipt of police clearance reports from the concerned authorities. The overall time taken in issue of passports range from 60 to 90 days.

(c) All Passport Officers have been directed to issue passports with in a week after receipt of clearance reports from the police authorities. If the reports are not received within a period of 45 days the passport authorities have been instructed to remind the police authorities periodically to expedite police clearance report in respect of passport applications. The Director General of Police in each State is also being requested separately to issue suitable instructions to the District Police Authorities in the matter. The Government plans to computerize the major Passport Offices by the end of the current financial year. The first phase includes Passport Offices at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Cochin. This should alo help in streamlining the processing of passport applications.

Popularity of TV Magazine Programmes abroad

1320. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will he Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how popular is the weekly TV magazine programmes sent to our diplomatic missions abroad; and

(b) what is the reaction of our Ambassadors and the people of the countries to which it is shown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The "India Magazine" TV capsules have proved most useful in projecting a positive image of India. These TV programmes have been widely welcomed by our missions abroad. These are being extensively used by most Indian ethnic TV stations in USA and Canada. Strips from "India Magazine" are also being used by National Television Stations in a number of countries for viewing by their public. The "India Magazine" programmes are also being lent by our Missions abroad to individuals, cultural organisations, and educational institutions.